

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

INFO AMEMBASY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3969

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO

SUBJ: VISIT OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. IN COMMENTING ON THE VISIT JUNE 10 TO MADRID OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES, FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA TOLD ME JUNE 9 THAT THE VISIT HAD ORIGINATED FROM A CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH THE PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR SOME WEEKS AGO. HE HAD MADE THE POINT THAT INSTEAD OF CONTINUING SUSPICIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES, IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD HAVE DIRECT CONVERSATIONS. CONSIDERABLY TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S SURPRISE, THE PORTUGUESE HAD ULTIMATELY AGREED. AT FIRST, ANTUNES' VISIT WAS TO BE FOR A FEW HOURS, BUT NOW IT EXTENDED THROUGH THE BETTER PART OF JUNE 10. ROVIRA SAID THAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO GET THE PORTUGUESE TO PROVIDE AN AGENDA, BUT NOTHING BUT BROAD GENERALITIES HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING SO FAR. HE ASSUMED THAT THE CONVERSATIONS WOULD BE VERY GENERAL, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD REFER TO SPANISH UNAHPPINESS WITH THE UN-FRIENDLY BROADCASTS EMANATING FROM PORTUGAL. ROVIERA REMARKED PARENTHETICALLY THAT AT ONE POINT THE GOS HAD GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO REPLYING TO PORTUGUESE BROADCASTS BY ORIGINATING UNFRIENDLY BROADCASTS TO PORTUGAL FROM SPAIN. HOWEVER, THIS HAD BEEN ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF A SPANISH PROTEST TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

2. ROVIRA SAID THAT WITH REGARD TO THE IBERIAN PACT, THIS WAS ENTIRELY ON THE SHELF AT THE MOMENT AND HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT

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IT WOULD BE A SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION.

STABLER

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